From: HarborComments
To: PortlandHarbor
Subject: Willamette River Superfund Cleanup Comment
Date: Thursday, December 06, 2018 12:46:01 PM

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 12:45 PM
To: HarborComments <HarborComments@epa.gov>
Subject: Willamette River Superfund Cleanup Comment

To whom it may concern,

I'm incredibly concerned with the news that the EPA is proposing to rollback the federally-mandated cleanup of a highly toxic 11 mile stretch of the Willamette River. I think this is particularly irresponsible and will have a disproportionately negative effect on the area's most vulnerable communities.

Specifically, I'm worried about the agency's insistence that the chemical benzo(a)pyrene is less toxic than previously thought, even though other studies directly contradict this claim. As a Black man, it is particularly worrying to know that a chemical linked to heart disease would be even more prevalent in the water supply, considering that we are predisposed to this condition as a community and overrepresented among the homeless population, who are arguably the most vulnerable to the negative consequences of this weakened cleanup.

Furthermore, there is no analysis of how benzo(a)pyrene will interact in combination with other chemicals at the site and no determination on whether the cleanup will uphold water quality standards for people, animals, and the environment.

All things considered, the proposal to weaken the Willamette River Superfund site is, at best, a potentially catastrophic rush to judgement, and at worst, a bad faith effort to undermine the bare minimums of environmental stewardship. Neither line of reasoning is acceptable.

As a concerned citizen, I am urging the EPA to withdraw its proposal to weaken the cleanup efforts at the Willamette River Superfund site. In fact, I would go a step further and encourage the agency to expand the cleanup as a show of commitment to fighting the larger, existential threats of climate change and environmental damage.

Thank you for your consideration,

(b) (6)